



### Neighborhood-by-Neighborhood Jennifer Kretovic Listens

Without question, Ward 3 is a very diverse district. I have neighbors living in some of the most densely populated areas of the city, such as Fosterville, and some of the most rural areas, around Penacook Lake. The needs and concerns of the constituents are just as varied as the location of their homes. In speaking with people from across the ward, themes do immerge about what is important to the residents in Ward 3.

#### A Vibrant City:

Every community in New Hampshire relies heavily on income derived from property taxes to fund its city operations and services. While Concord continues to progress away from the economic downturn of 2008, we also need to be at the forefront of attracting new, higher pay employers to the city. This approach tackles two objectives: tax base expansion and citizen retention. As a volunteer with the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce and Intown Concord Inc., I continually work on economic development efforts in the city and have for more than 10-years. Through support of the Chamber's Concord Young Professional Network (CYPN) I understand and appreciate the need to retain our young professionals in the marketplace, but that means higher paying jobs. At Intown Concord, I volunteer on the Economic Vitality committee which tackles business recruitment, retention and expansion efforts. The formula is widely known and tested: Live + Work + Stay + Play = A Vibrant City.

#### A Safe City:

Today, I serve on the Crisis Center of Central NH board of directors and have past service on the Public Safety Committee. Volunteering for both these organizations make me acutely aware domestic violence and hard drug use continue to plague the city. I support Concord's decision to add a witness advocate to aid victims of domestic, sexual and elder abuse in our city. Likewise, I support fully funding the Problem Oriented Policing Program (POPP) that has seen great success here.

The rise of the homeless population is of equal concern for residents in Ward 3, particularly with the prospect of the cold weather shelter not being open this winter. I am putting my faith in the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness' Housing First model that has seen success in other communities. Housing First does just that, puts homeless people into a safe housing environment.

If you can separate the belief that homeless people are opiate drug abusers, you will understand that the cold weather shelters here were becoming unsafe for the real homeless population. Addiction can make people do unthinkable acts. POPP addresses this part of the problem. Our vulnerable homeless population and the volunteers that operated the shelters were at risk. I cannot support that but I can support the efforts of dignity, care and a path to success that the Housing First model offers. The population of people using the resources for homeless individuals here in Concord is relatively small compared to the transient population using services for a day or two at a time, and then moving on. We need to help those that are here every day and homeless.

#### An Innovative City:

You know the old adage, "Time is Money." I do not want to waste your time. A communication and customer-focused city, Concord is streamlining processes to better serve residents efficiently. I am committed to remaining progressive and flexible to meet your needs and I support having more of your city transactions occurring online, at your convenience and not ours. We have a secure technology environment and the less time you stand in line, the better.

#### The Greatest Challenge Facing the Next City Council:

The challenge is always the budget. The City of Concord continues to present its citizens a balanced budget however, stability remains in limbo when legislatures deliberate the state's finances well into September. Our fiscal year starts in July. The Council needs knowledgeable leaders that can adapt without hesitation. As a past member of the Council, I am informed and understand the impact downshifting creates.

#### How To Stay Connected:

I live in West Concord with my husband, Bill and have for the last 27 years. We have two sons, Michael and Jack. Michael and his fiancé, Jessica live here in Concord. Jack is a senior at Concord High. We all volunteer for organizations that help make Concord great.

Residents wishing to contact me to discuss issues concerning Ward 3 may call me at 228-8395; send me a note in the mail to 8 Gallen Drive, Concord NH, 03303-3430 or by e-mail to [jennifer.kretovic@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.kretovic@gmail.com).